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Draft report

Addendum

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Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 11
Human settlements

1. At its 12th meeting, on 15 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 11 (Human settlements), of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6 (Prog.11)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. Its streamlining into two subprogrammes was welcomed. However, the objective and the strategy in subprogrammes 1 and 2 did not convincingly describe how to produce expected accomplishments or how to achieve the indicators.

4. It was observed that mandates emanating from United Nations conferences and the five-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) should have been cited as mandates for this programme.

5. There was also no specific reference to several objectives that had been mentioned in the previous plan, such as assistance to governments to promote policies, enabling strategies and delivery systems for housing and social services, adequate housing and so forth. It was also observed that there was a lack of clarity as regards provision of assistance in policy formulation and advisory services, as

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well as in supporting United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) partners, which were primary goals of Habitat.

6. It was noted that the issues of rural shelter did not receive sufficient attention and that they should have been addressed in the programme, which tended to focus on urbanization and city issues.

7. The view was expressed that the promotion of the World Charter of Local Self-Government should be deleted from the narrative, as exceeding the Habitat Agenda and not mandated.

8. The programme should have had a reference to provision of assistance, including financial aid, to developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to implement the Habitat Agenda. It was also observed that more attention should be given to preparedness for disaster prevention.

9. There should have been more emphasis on coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system to facilitate better implementation of this programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve programme 11 (Human settlements) of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 11.1:

(i) After the first sentence insert the following new sentence: "The goals of the Habitat Agenda are adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world";

(ii) Before the second sentence insert the following text as the mandate for the programme: "The mandate of the programme is derived from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in particular the Habitat Agenda, and General Assembly resolutions 32/162, by which the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was established, and 43/181, by which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the year 2000. The mandate derives also from the decisions of the relevant legislative bodies regarding Agenda 21 (chaps. 7, 21 and 28)";

(b) Paragraph 11.2:

Add the following new sentence: "The Centre will support developing countries through technical cooperation in achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development and will evaluate, promote and monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and will undertake the preparation for the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the outcome of the Untied Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)";

(c) Paragraph 11.3:

In the second sentence, after the words "United Nations Development Programme", insert the words "United Nations Children's Fund";

(d) Title of subprogramme 1:

Replace the heading "Shelter for all" with the heading "Adequate shelter for all";

(e) Paragraph 11.4:

In the first sentence, replace the words "acknowledging the right of the poor to urban shelter and services" with the words "acknowledging the right of the poor to an adequate standard of living, which includes housing";

(f) Paragraph 11.5:

After the words "The overall objective of the subprogramme is" insert the words "to support Governments and other United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) partners";

(g) Paragraph 11.6:

(i) Delete the text ", as its entry point, a rights-based Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, in which the main activity of Habitat will be to promote, globally, relevant norms and standards, to provide specialized substantive support to Member States, and to capture the normative lessons learned and devise appropriate mechanisms for their assimilation, analysis and dissemination. Other elements of the strategy include" and merge the remaining text of the second and the third sentences;

(ii) After the last sentence, insert the following text:

"Other elements of the strategy will be as follows:

"(a) To promote policies, enabling strategies and delivery systems for housing and social services that are responsive to the need for adequate shelter and security of tenure;

"(b) To strengthen the capacity at national and local levels to contribute to shelter delivery in poor urban and rural settlements;

"(c) To support developing countries through technical cooperation in achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development";

(h) Paragraph 11.8:

In subparagraph (a) delete the word "secure" in the second line;

(i) Title of subprogramme 2:

Replace the heading "Sustainable urban development" with the heading "Sustainable human settlements development";

(j) **Paragraph 11.10:**

After the words "The objective of the subprogramme is" insert the words "to support Governments and other United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) partners in";

(k) **Paragraph 11.11:**

The last sentence should be replaced with the following: "Another element of the strategy is to promote the decision-making policies on human settlements management through local government, as appropriate";

(l) **Under "Legislative mandates":**

Add the following General Assembly resolutions:

53/180	**Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda**
54/207	**Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda**
54/208	**Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)**